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PRESS ITEM FOR THE DCI

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WASHINGTON AP- -- Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., cautioned today against exposure of sensitive intelligence operations in any congressional investigation of North Korea's seizure of the U.S. Navy ship Pueblo.

South Korea complained meanwhile that the United States, in seeking return of the ship, should give major attention also to North Korean terror raids into South Korea.

Mansfield, the Senate Democratic leader, said at an informal news conference he thinks the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should "move very carefully" in probing into intelligence affairs.

The committee has sent a lengthy list of questions to Secretary of State Dean Rusk about the equipping and operation of the Pueblo and other intelligence activities. It has raised the question of whether the Pueblo operated too close to the North Korean coast.

"I have the very strong belief that the Administration has given the committee every bit of information it has," Mansfield said in an allusion to closed-door testimony by Rusk before the group.

"There are some questions that can't be answered until we gain the release of the crew. But we ought to move very carefully in some of the extremely sensitive areas with which we are dealing.

"We just can't expose everything we have in the way of sensitive information to people overseas who would be glad to have it."

The United States has been negotiating with North Korea at Panmunjom, seeking return of the ship and its crew. State Department officials said South Korea has expressed concern that the talks have not paid more attention to the Communist threat to South Korea, especially an attempt to assassinate President Chung Hee Park.

But there was no confirmation, either at the State Department or the Korean Embassy here, of reports from Seoul that Ambassador Kim Dong-jo was being called back to South Korea in anger over the Panmunjom developments.

Kim said in an interview his government is more disappointed than angered at what he called "not enough emphasis" at the Panmunjom talks on the North Korean infiltration.

JK127 Feb. 6

Comment: Follows up referent item. Goodwin and Warner have copies.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.